United Nations S/2001/123

Security Council

Distr.: General
9 February 2001

Original: English

Letter dated 8 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the message from His Excellency Dr. Joao Bernardo de Miranda, Minister for External Relations of the Republic of Angola, dated 6 February (see annex), with the request that the present document and its annex be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Jose Goncalves Martins **Patricio**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

01-24567 (E) 090201

Annex to the letter dated 8 February 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Angola to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On 20 February 2001, the Security Council will examine the report concerning the Monitoring Mechanism on Angola Sanctions established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1295 (2000).

Addressing the refusal of the UNITA wing, led by Mr. Savimbi, to abide by the Peace Accords it signed with the Angolan Government, choosing instead to return to war in order to reclaim its interests, the Security Council decreed mandatory international sanctions against that organization, namely through its resolutions 864 (1993), 1127 (1997) and 1173 (1998).

Such sanctions anticipate, among other things, the prohibition of the furnishing of any military support, either logistical, financial or material to the rebels, the freezing of its funds and bank accounts in foreign countries and the prohibition of the international cross-border movement of its leaders and adult members of their families.

The application of the sanctions, along with the efforts pursued by my Government with a view to fulfilling the requirements of the Lusaka Protocol, to arriving at genuine national reconciliation and to permitting the stabilization of the peace, has, on the one hand, contributed to the significant reduction of the military capacity of the rebels and, on the other hand, has persuaded thousands of them to abandon the war and become part of the ongoing democratic process in Angola.

It is fitting here to emphasize the positive impact of the Amnesty Law for crimes committed during the conflict, an initiative of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, recently adopted by the Angolan Parliament. This law has already permitted the reintegration of thousands of ex-rebels. In the body of this law, my Government has called for dialogue with all those who have abandoned the war option, in order to bring about the effective end of the obligations of the Lusaka Protocol.

In spite of this, some elements of the rebel group continue to plant death and destruction, making civilians their principal target.

The sanctions constitute the most effective instrument of pressure, which the Security Council and the international community have at their disposal, to persuade the UNITA wing that has withdrawn from the Peace Accords to return to them. Therefore, it has become urgent to maintain international pressure on UNITA's armed wing.

My Government repeats that the attainment of a lasting peace in Angola should come about in the context of the political-juridical situation established by the Bicesse Accords and by the Lusaka Protocol. This situation continues to be valid and has the full support of the Security Council and of the United Nations and the international community as a whole.

The Angolan Government welcomes the most recent report of the Monitoring Mechanism on Angola Sanctions, established as a result of resolution 1295 (2000). We are worried, however, at the observations over the systematic violations of sanctions and the collusion that exists between the armed wing of UNITA and

transnational organized crime networks linked to the international traffic of diamonds and of arms.

The diamond traffic constitutes today the main sustenance of rebel groups in Africa, and in Angola in particular. The report of the Monitoring Mechanism describes, in an exhaustive and sustained form, the extent of the traffic in blood diamonds, removed illegally from Angola by the wing of UNITA led by Mr. Savimbi, and the international channels which bypass national laws and international norms and introduce them into the international marketplace.

Connected to this illicit trade one finds a well-structured network of money-laundering, falsification of documents and trafficking in conventional arms, the main reasons for the massive flow of arms in the regions of Africa affected by conflicts.

Angola hopes that in the session of the Security Council on 20 February, the members of this body can examine these questions in an exhaustive manner and find effective solutions, along the lines recommended in the report.

In summary, my Government stresses that the following elements should be considered:

1. The necessity of strengthening the sanctions against the armed wing of UNITA, in keeping with Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations and of paragraph 3 of resolution 1295 (2000);

2. The necessity of strengthening the current system of control and supervision of the sanctions, in order to obtain better cooperation from States;

3. Enlarging of the mandate of the monitoring mechanism in order to include the presenting of suggestions, to bring about the judicial prosecution of companies and individuals who violate the sanctions;

4. Strong condemnation and the adoption of appropriate measures to combat the support of the networks of the traffickers of arms and diamonds to the armed wing of UNITA;

5. The Security Council should also consider the necessity of adopting measures against the countries involved in violations of sanctions.

To close, I want to reaffirm the determination of my Government in continuing to develop all its efforts, so that peace will become a reality in Angola in the short term.

(*Signed*) Joao Bernardo **de Miranda**
Minister for External Relations